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Mini Unit Paper

For my mini unit plan, I decided to target 5th grade. The subject I chose was science, and my unit was the Solar System. I picked this topic because it is a really fun topic to teach, and I have some experience teaching in from last semester. The two lessons I designed addressed stars and constellations, and the planets. My standards are listed below.

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| Stars and Constellations | **GLE 0507.6.2** Recognize that charts can be used to locate and identify star patterns.  **SPI 0507.6.3** Identify methods and tools for identifying star patterns. |
| Planets | **GLE 0507.6.1** Compare planets based on their known characteristics.  **SPI 0507.6.1** Distinguish among the planets according to their known characteristics such as appearance, location, composition, and apparent motion. **SPI 0507.6.2** Select information from a complex data representation to draw conclusions about the planets.  **GLE 0501.3.2** Write in various modes and genres, including narration, literary response, personal expression, description, and imaginative. **SPI 0501.3.2** Identify the purpose for writing (i.e., to entertain, to inform, to share experiences, to persuade, to report). **GLE 0501.1.1** Demonstrate knowledge of Standard English usage, mechanics, and spelling. **SPI 0501.1.15** Recognize and use grade appropriate vocabulary within context |

I plan to address these standards through a variety of activities. For my constellations lesson I will have a virtual star explorer, a children’s book, and a create your own constellation activity. Each activity has a variety of different learning approaches to address the needs of all students. In my planets lesson I will have a song about the planets on the internet, followed by a travel brochure and weather forecast. In these activities, students will work individually and in groups. While in groups they will have to work together to figure what they are going to do for their various projects, and communicate about content knowledge they have learned. Allowing students to work together is a great exercise because it allows students the chance to talk everything they are learning. This approach is great for ESL students because they can help each other learn and communicate difficult content knowledge.

**Assessments:**

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| Pre Assessment | K-W-L Chart & Assessment Probe |
| Post Assessment | STEMS Test Questions Quiz |

For my assessment, I picked a K-W-L Chart to get the students thinking what they know and what they would like to know. This seems to get students excited to learn more. I also have an assessment probe. For my post assessment, I have STEMS test questions picked out that address specific standards. I would use this as a quiz to help get students ready for standardized tests at the end of the year.

**Visuals:**

I have implemented several visuals to make the lessons more compatible with an ESL classroom. I have a virtual star game, in which students use their eyes and motor skills to explore space on the computer. There is a children’s book, and constellation handout with pictures and words to help ESL students’ associate things better. In my constellation activity I have also implemented a short writing opportunity to really make sure the students understand the content. This is also a good opportunity to make sure students are well rounded in other subjects. I have also tried to incorporate TPR into a lot of my activities to really make sure students are connected.